

September 6, 1974

Mr. Bayless Manning  
President  
Council on Foreign Relations  
58 East 68th Street  
New York, New York 10021

Dear Bay!,,

John Kaplan put me on to the book you did on conflict on interest in government employment when I asked him for an outstanding source that might help me understand the more complex sociology of conflict of interest. I have a number of intersections of interest with that theme, but perhaps the main one to mention is the diversity of roles that the scientific expert is often asked to play. In that connection I think the National Academy of Sciences and other groups need more and better advice than they have had so far in recognizing the reality of this problem and in trying to devise reasonable solutions to it.

I realize this is undoubtedly far from your current interests but I thought you might have kept in better touch with the subsequent literature than most others would have had, so I thought it might be reasonable to ask you for some bibliographic suggestions. I do not know what the legislative history has been on the subject nor whether any of the hearings would be contributory and I would rely upon your advice about that too. I am perhaps more interested in the question of conflict as a psychological and sociological than as a legal problem but have not been able to find much non-legal literature on the subject to date. The political scientists use the phrase "conflict of interest" in a way that means substantially "conflict between parties" in various game-theoretical contexts and this only confuses bibliographic search efforts.

Let me say that I miss you and hope we might run into you some time.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr

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